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UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: 4/ 20/ 04 4:00 PM
DATE/TIME OF OCCURRENCE: 4/ 19/ 04
NATURE OF CALL: Vandalism/ Theft suspects arrested
LOCATION OF CALL: TAHOE CITY
CASE NUMBER: SO-04-5768

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

Tahoe City residents have reported the theft of numerous vehicle hood ornaments and emblems, primarily from their parked luxury automobiles between April 5th and April 12th. Many of these high-end cars sustained expensive damage during the theft removal process in which pry tools were used. Popular victim brands included Porsche, Land Rover, Cadillac, Lincoln Navigator and Mercedes Benz.

Investigating Patrol Deputy John Shaw pursued evidence suggesting that local high school students might be involved. On Monday morning Deputy Shaw walked through the parking lot at North Tahoe High School seeking clues. Shaw saw several emblems matching those reported stolen in plain view inside a student's vehicle. After confronting the owner of the vehicle he was quickly able to identify the three suspects responsible. Additional investigation, with the assistance of Detective Dave Hunt, also connected the trio to the theft of commercial business signs from the Tahoe City Lighthouse Shopping Center.

Shawn Adam Davidson, an eighteen-year old North Tahoe High School, student was arrested for possession of stolen property, vandalism and conspiracy to commit the crimes. A second sixteen-year old NTHS student and another seventeen-year old home-schooled student were released to their parents and referred to the Juvenile Probation Department for prosecution of similar charges. The minors were not identified because of their age.

Detective Hunt stated, "Going out to have fun and collecting trinkets has caused grief for many North Shore residents and a lot of embarrassment and trouble for these young men and their families". Vehicle owners that may not have reported that they were victimized are encouraged to call the Placer County Sheriff's Department at 581-6300.

RELEASED BY: Lt. Jeffrey A. Granum, North Tahoe Station

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